

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 EB-11 AID-20 PC-04 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01 DRC-01

/146 W

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R 291135Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4003

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, BE, IR

SUBJ: BELGIAN PREMIER LEBURTON PLEASED WITH VISIT TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 6728

1. BELGIAN PREMIER LEBURTON DEPARTED TEHRAN SEPTEMBER 27 FOLLOWING A SEVEN DAY VISIT TO IRAN. DURING STAY IN IRAN HE WAS RECEIVED BY THE SHAH AND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, ECONOMY MINISTER HOUSHANG ANSARI AND NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY CHIEF MANUCHEHR EQBAL.

2. PERHAPS MAIN PURPOSE OF LEBURTON'S VISIT WAS TO GET THE STALLED JOINT OIL REFINERY PROJECT IN LIEGE BACK ON THE RAILS. THIS 5 MILLION TON CAPACITY REFINERY WITH NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY AS 50 PER CENT PARTNER WAS DISCUSSED WHEN PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA VISITED BRUSSELS TWO YEARS AGO. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE THAT LEBURTON ASSURED GOI THAT BELGIAN INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO REFINERY HAS NOW REPEAT NOW BEEN OVERCOME. OTHER PROJECTS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED INCLUDED BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN CONSTRUCTION OF 50,000 HOUSING UNITS IN IRAN AND POSSIBLE ROLE OF

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BELGIUM IN PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTING SUBWAY FOR TEHRAN.

3. IN REPLY PRESS QUERY CONCERNING IRAN'S PROBLEMS WITH EEC,
LEBURTON
WAS QUOTED AS STATING QUOTE ALL CNCAN SAY IS THAT WE HAVE
UNDERSTOOD YOUR (IRAN'S) POINT OF VIEW AND HAVE GREAT SYMPATHY FOR
YOUR POSITION. WE SHALL HELP IRAN CREATE CLOSER AND MORE FRUITFUL
TIES WITH EEC ON BASIS OF MUTUAL INTEREST UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NO JOINT COMUNIQUE FOLLOWED LEBUIHF'S DE-
PARTURE, GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT BOTH LEBURTON AND HIS HOSTS WERE
MOST SATISFIED WITH VISIT.
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